

# THE CIVILIAN

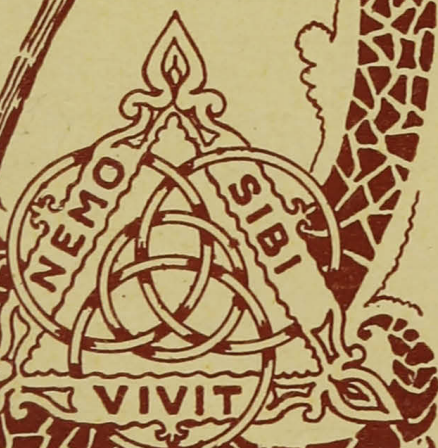
A FORTNIGHTLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS  
OF THE  
CIVIL SERVICE OF CANADA

## FEATURES

207th Regiment.  
Roll of Honour.  
Don't Grouch—Fight.  
Income Tax—Reviewed.  
The Service Reviewed.  
The Postal Journal.

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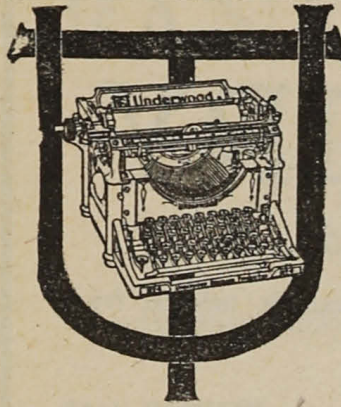
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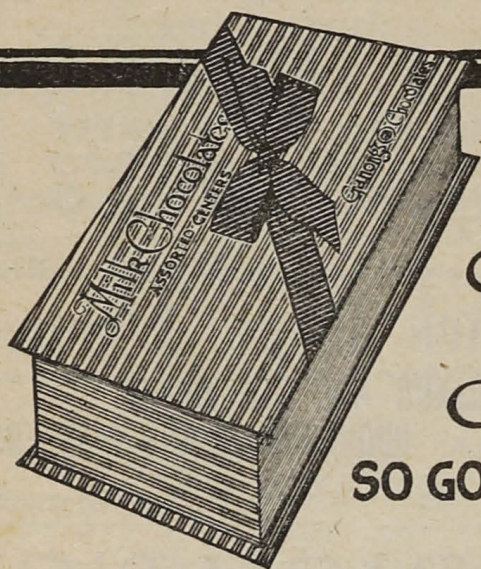
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# THE CIVILIAN

VOL. VIII.

MARCH 31, 1916.

No. 25

## The 207th Regiment.

When the necessary authority was given for the formation of the 207th Battalion, C.E.F., the idea at once presented itself that here was the regiment in which might be enrolled at least one company from the unmarried members of the Civil Service in Ottawa. How best to arrange this matter was a problem requiring careful consideration. In the person of the "second in command," Major Bell, himself a civil servant, from the Department of Railways and Canals, there was a man quite in touch with many of the phases of a civil servant's life that are altogether too little known to the public generally.

The Officer Commanding, Lieut.-Col. MacLean, and his other officers grasped the situation, and it is very evident have sought to make the way very easy for the young men of the Public Service of Canada, here in Ottawa, who has not already donned the khaki, to get in line. Going to the very head of things, the Prime Minister was approached with idea of obtaining his approval of the proposition. On March 10th, Sir Robert Borden wrote to Colonel MacLean as follows:



Ottawa, Ont. March 10th, 1916

Dear Colonel MacLean,-

I am writing to express my personal best wishes for the success of your recruiting campaign of the 207th Battalion. I understand that it is your wish to bring the claims of the 207th Battalion to the attention of members of the public service in Ottawa, but within the limits of the requirements of the various Departments. I am confident that your appeal will meet with the support which it so well deserves.

Yours faithfully,

Lt. Col. Charles MacLean,

C. C. 207th Battalion,

Cor Metcalfe & Albert Sts.

O t t a w a.



Having this stamp of approval, steps were at once taken to obtain a list of eligible men from which to form a starting point. Col. MacLean's force of organizers have been working solely on the principle of obtaining *volunteers*; and a man is a volunteer only when he says, "I want to go." So, having these lists in hand, the next move was to approach the head or deputy head of each Department and outline the proposed scheme of organization. Obtaining their sanction, the next step is to approach all the single men of military age in the Service and ask them to agree to enlist, and for that purpose the following form is being used:

*The undersigned agree to enlist with the 207th Battalion (Ottawa-Carleton) C.E.F., on condition that arrangements be made for leave while on service and that their positions are open to them upon their return; and, also, that a portion of their civil pay equal to their civil pay less military pay be allowed while on service.*

Department.....

Name.	Address.	Age.	Salary.	Married or Single.	Remarks.

Now that shows a man's willingness. It does not make a recruit of him; but he IS a *volunteer*. Having gone so far it is not proposed that any of the men who sign the lists shall approach his deputy personally, but when the lists are complete, the officers of the battalion will take the necessary steps to place them before the heads of the various departments concerned and have them agree as to the number of men who can be spared without impairing the efficiency of public service. In this manner it will not be up to any one to say, "Well, I cannot be spared," or "I do not know if the chief will let me go." Just sign the sheet, and you will soon be told whether it is to go or not to go. The conditions of enlistment as set forth in the previously mentioned form are clean-cut and extremely fair. No one is entering this wonderful military game for the money there is in it, but unquestionably every man in the public service with any dependents whatsoever must consider them. It would seem from the foregoing that from the standpoint of money he will not be a loser, as full amount of present salary is guaranteed. The fact that his position is to be kept open awaiting his return to civil life is an encouraging feature, in line with the stand taken by scores, possibly hundreds, of employers of large bodies of men throughout the country. This is as it should be.

Already there are in the ranks of the 207th a number of civil servants; and to see a company, or two companies of men of the public service, officered by civil servants, all friends and acquaintances together, animated by the one patriotic desire to make good together is thrilling.

Practically, either the head or deputy head of every Department has been interviewed, and in each and every case promise has been given to do everything possible to assist in raising a Civil Service company. This is extremely encouraging at the outset, for it will mean some sacrifice, extra worry and less smoothly running machinery, to take two hundred and fifty or more men, trained to their present duties, away from these offices.

The point is, though, they *can* be spared and *must* be allowed to go.



## THE LUNGER'S LAMENTATIONS.

## I.

When first I hears that war is on, I goes around to see  
If them wot runs the soldiers couldn't make some use of me.  
I gets me papers out O.K., resolved to do me bit,—  
Until old doc he bowls me out "NOT PHYSICALLY FIT."

## II.

And now as down the street I sees the soldier lads go by,  
I puzzles this ole brain of mine to try and figger why  
The good Lord made me strong for fight but skimped on health with me;  
While others wot is scared to fight is strong as they can be.

## III.

I've tried just seven times so far to get into the fight,  
And seven times I've been turned down when ole doc came in sight.  
Ole doc he looks at me and says, "You can't enlist, me lad;  
It's no use trying; cut it out; your lungs and heart is bad."

## IV.

Now why should I who wants to fight be turned down week on week,  
Because the ole M.D. decides I've got a poor physique?  
I'm anxious for to do my bit—suppose me lungs is wrong!  
I'd do more good than those *afraid* to help the cause along.

## V.

The doctor says I'll never see another year go through,  
So why not let me go and fight and kill a Hun or two?  
If strong men is afraid to go, and stay at home through fright,  
I think we weak ones should at least be given a chance to fight.

## VI.

We "need more men," we hear each day; how can strong men resist  
The chance to aid the Motherland help break the mailed fist!  
I comes from fighting stock, me friend, though I don't look the part,  
But I makes up in backbone wot I lacks in lungs and heart.

## VII.

Yet here among the cowards hanging back I've got to stay  
Because I can't show papers with the ole M.D.'s O.K.  
I can't go telling everyone me heart and lungs ain't right;  
But blowed if I want people thinking I'm afraid to fight.

—Blackie Dawe



## The Roll of Honour.

### Forty-Third List.

Lachlan McKechnie Barbour, Post Office, Winnipeg.  
 Karl Eldridge Baxter, Post Office, Chatham.  
 Herbert Stanley Boocock, Post Office, Moose Jaw.  
 Edward Brett, Post Office, Toronto.  
 William Walter Brown, Post Office, Calgary.  
 Thomas James Christie, Post Office, Toronto.  
 John Andrew Corcoran, P. O. Inspector's Office, Vancouver.  
 Alfred Cross, Letter Carrier, Edmonton.  
 Frank Cuddington, Letter Carrier, Port Arthur.  
 Royden V. Cummer, Post Office, Calgary.  
 Hugh William Cuthbertson, Letter Carrier, Berlin.  
 Charles DeBlais, Post Office, Montreal.  
 Silvil Felice, Post Office, Winnipeg.  
 Albert George Foster, Letter Carrier, Winnipeg.  
 Fred. S. Fultz, Post Office, Halifax.  
 Wilfrid Howie Gemmill, Post Office, Chatham.  
 William Gilson, Letter Carrier, Edmonton.  
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 John Ebenezer Hamblin, Post Office, Calgary.  
 John Robert Haney, Letter Carrier, Hamilton.  
 Clarence Simeon Huff, Post Office, New Westminster.  
 Edward Kitson, Railway Mail Clerk, London.  
 Daniel John Leggatt, Post Office, New Westminster.  
 Patrick Mahoney, Post Office Dept., Ottawa.  
 Claud Wellington Manley, Post Office, Peterboro.  
 Charles Horace Gordon Miller, Mail Transfer Agent, Winnipeg.  
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 Milo Munro, Railway Mail Clerk, London.  
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 John F. Murphy, Post Office, Lindsay.  
 Archibald MacDonald, Letter Carrier, Vancouver.  
 John Arthur McDonald, Post Office, Portage la Prairie.  
 Arthur William McLachlan, Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg.  
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 Harry Claud Taylor, Post Office, Moose Jaw.



**THE LURE OF THE WILD.**

(Frederick William Wallace.)

I am sick of the desk and the business, and the ring of the telephone,  
And the sign of the work before me, in this prison of iron and stone,  
I am tired of shaving and cleaning, and the feel of a collar and tie,  
Ye Gods, if I stand it much longer, I'll crawl in a hole and die.

I am tired of being civil, and sick of being polite,  
And bored with entertaining, and talking half the night.  
I am weary of having my boots shined, and of saying "How d'ye do?"  
I'll break for the bush and shake them all—the sordid, conventional crew.

Oh, I'm off for the woods to-night, lads, and I'm going to go alone,  
For I'm sick at heart and weary, and worked right down to the bone.  
It's me for the camp in the silence, and the night wind thro' the trees,  
And the reek of the scented wood-smoke, as it floats on the evening breeze.

Pack me the old blue shirt, lads, with the belt and the corduroy,  
Give me the old jack boots, lads, my gun and the "Oil of Joy,"  
For I'm trailing into the bush, boys, where the trees close in behind  
The sordid life of the city—where a man lives the life of the blind.

Have you heard the winds on the Lakes, boys, and the whine in the tall pine trees,  
As it fills the bellying canvas, and rolls her down to the breeze?  
Have ye smelt the tang of the powder, as the game old buck drops down?  
This is the cure for my soul, lads,—to H—— with your life in the town.

Give me the plunge in the river—in the waters cool and blue,  
Instead of your lick in the bathroom, with its marble and nickel, too;  
Let me chew on my grub where it meets me, to the deuce with the silver and spoons,  
And smoke my pipe by the firelight, while the frogs croak mystic runes.

This is the life for the weary, this is the life for a man,  
Dress and go where it suits you, for nobody cares a d——,  
I can sleep when I like, and eat when I like, and smoke all day if I choose,  
So, to-night I will hike for the backwoods, with my wanderlust to lose.

So long, boys, I am going, and there's devil a tear in my eye,  
I've burned my glad rags and linen, and torn up my collar and tie,  
I've thrown my dip in the ashpan, and cast my cuffs in the fire,  
And I'm outward bound for the backwoods, and the Land of My Heart's Desire.

—O—

**A BEREAVED MOTHER'S PRAYER.**

"God bless them every one, those splendid men!  
The soldiers brave beneath a foreign sky;  
The crippled and the wounded,—all of them!  
Who on the field of glory live and die."

This was her prayer: she hid the pains and tears,  
Though no returning step her heart would stir,  
While softly pass the quiet creeping years,  
With but the whispering winds to comfort her.

But angels leaning on the golden walls  
Turn their gaze earthward, pitying, tender: then  
This anthem, full of bliss, from Heaven falls:  
"God bless them every one, those splendid men!"

—Aileen Ward.



# THE CIVILIAN

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all other communications should be addressed  
to:

THE CIVILIAN, P. O. Box 484, Ottawa.

Ottawa, March 31, 1916.

## THE NATIONAL DUTY.

*I do not believe for a moment that Germany will win, but I will take no chances. As we are now, Canada is the freest, most popularly governed country in the world. But we had to fight and wait a good many years to get all this freedom and liberty and democracy, and we should lose it all overnight with Germany as victor in this war, and so our struggles would not only begin over again, but as a German colony we would be set much further back than we were at the outset of the effort to get the liberty England finally granted. For Germany does not even know what constitutional government means. As for Quebec, that province would become another Poland. Imagine what changes would come to all her institutions under Prussian control.*

—T. Chase Casgrain, Postmaster-General.

*"I am much impressed by what has just been said as to the part that woman—and especially Edith Cavell—has played in this dark and sombre page of history, and as long as there are women of the courage that Edith Cavell has shown, England will not fail, and the cause of the allies assuredly will not fail."*

—Hon. J. M. Beck.

## OUR BOYS

Previously reported:

Dead .....	43
Wounded .....	79
Prisoners .....	7

**DEAD.**

IVAN SMITH.

## DON'T GROUCH,—FIGHT!

After nineteen months of waiting, the Ottawa Civil Service is given the opportunity that it called for in the early days of the war,—the opportunity to raise a distinctly Civil Service body of men for overseas service. Even now the long-sought privilege is not granted by the powers to which appeal was made, but is rather a bit of sharp recruiting-practice resorted to by the commander of a newly-authorized battalion who is anxious to build up his corps with the very best material he can get.

When volunteers were called for in those hectic days of August, 1914, the young men of the Civil Service did not wait for a Civil Service unit to be formed, but rushed to the recruiting offices in their hundreds and enlisted with any corps that wanted men and promised them a chance to fight.

Before the Second Division troops were called for, a survey of the Ottawa Service was taken and it was seen that there were still hundreds of young men who would answer a new call for recruits. At a mass meeting of civil servants it was proposed to at once embody these men in a Civil Service corps, but unexpected, and, to some, inexplicable opposition developed and the proposition was referred to a committee, the individual members of which were hostile to the scheme. Of course it was never reported upon.



The secret of this stifling of the ambitions of the civil servants was that certain officers of Ottawa militia units who expected to secure good appointments in the overseas forces wanted the Civil Service kept an open field for recruiting. They knew that, for fifty years, civil servants had been the life of every military organization in the city, and that they could be relied upon to actively support overseas units,—if no Civil Service corps was formed. A Civil Service organization had to be prevented,—and the preventive measures were skilfully planned and successfully carried out.

Disjusted at the success of outside interference with Civil Service affairs, the “militarist” agitators then circulated an enrolment list and soon a committee was able to lay before the Minister of Militia the signatures of four hundred men who offered to serve in any military capacity in which they could be useful. The offer was neither rejected nor acted upon,—it was merely pigeonholed. No reason for the lack of action was given, but one might be surmised. The effect was to give the quietus to the military organization spirit in the Service.

More than a year has elapsed since that roll of four hundred recruits was consigned to the place of unwelcome things. Scores of the men whose names were on that roll have stood before the recruiting officers and every unit raised in the Third Military District has civil servants in its ranks. Placing their duty to their country before all feelings of disappointment or resentment, these young men have gone to the front to do their bit as best they can.

Now comes upon the scene Lieut.-Col. Chas. McLean, commissioned to raised and command the 207th “Ottawa” Battalion. He looks upon the Civil Service as a fertile field from which a heavy crop of recruits should be raised, and he assigns Capt. A. G.

Bell to the work. Perhaps neither of these officers knows much of the history of Civil Service organization efforts during the present war and they may be surprised at what may appear to them to be a lack of *esprit de corps*.

A parallel of the story and of the present situation may be found in the records of the Civil Service Rifles of 1861-1866. It is no new thing for the Service to be exploited for the benefit of outsiders.

But at this time prejudices, resentments, the memories of old wrongs and the nurslings of revenge must be cast aside and forgotten. The Empire is sore distressed. Britain calls to Canada and Canada calls her sons to arms. We are Britons, we are Canadians, before we are civil servants. First and last and all the time we must do our duty to our country and our flag. We will hope that duty well done may earn some meed of recognition when the war is over and the accounts are made up.

In the proposed Civil Service company of the 207th Battalion, civil servants are offered not only class recognition but an assurance of congeniality that should be a great encouragement to enlistment. If that company fills up first it will set the tone of the whole battalion. In attractiveness to the best class of men it will rival the universities units.

Lieut.-Col. McLean's invitation is good. It comes from a man against whom we have no ancient prejudice. It is an invitation that is very unlikely to be repeated in this war. It is an invitation which no free and fit civil servant can find good excuse for declining.

Boys,—“Fall In!”

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#### BADGES WANTED.

---

The effort to recruit civil servants for the 207th Battalion greatly emphasizes the need of an armlet or other badge as a distinguishing mark



for men who wish to enlist but are positively prohibited from doing so.

There are stalwart young men patiently enduring sneers and insinuations as to their personal courage who, in fact, were refused by the surgeons months ago. The man with the broken-down foot-arch, the man with varicose veins, the man with the ill-joined fracture of arm or leg, and the man with a darkened eye, seldom reveal these defects in everyday life, but the recruiting officer is not to be deceived. "Civilian life for yours" is his sentence. With every such sentence a certificate should be given, entitling the holder to wear a badge.

Then there are those who may be called "starred" men, *i.e.*, those who civil services are indispensable. There are men in every department whose peculiar training and acquired information place them in this class. When such men die it takes years to find and train their successors. It is hard enough to run a department in war time even with all its experts in their places. Their absence would surely involve confusion, trouble and loss. So these men cannot enlist. Certificates entitling them to wear exemption badges should be given to them by their ministers. Why should a man be shamed before his fellows merely because he is a specially valuable civil servant?

Yes, badges of some sort are needed, and at once. Their absence produces misunderstanding, suspicion and injustice. Their introduction would place every man in his true light and also stimulate recruiting.

Let's have badges.

If all the Ottawa civil servants who have already enlisted could be called home, they, with the new recruits now being secured, would just about fill up the 207th Battalion. What a corps it would be!

## KILLED IN ACTION.

Mrs. A. Rachel Smith, 284 Madison street, St. James, Manitoba, has just received official notice that her husband, Ivan Smith, railway mail clerk, Winnipeg district, was killed in action, somewhere in France, on the 14th inst.

The late Ivan Smith, who was thirty-three years of age, entered the Service in May, 1905, and was looked upon as a very efficient clerk. He left Winnipeg in August, 1915, attached to 5th Company, Machine Gun Section. This machine gun was purchased by contributions from the railway mail service staff of Winnipeg, members of which staff along with Smith entirely manned it. Besides his widow three children mourn the loss of one who went forth and for Canada and loved ones made the supreme sacrifice.

## A STORY OF HIGH PRICES.

In The Illumination of Joseph Keeler, Esq., or On to the Land, Dr. Peter H. Bryce, M.A., medical inspector, Immigration Branch, Department of the Interior, discusses a certain phase or phases of social and economic conditions here in Canada from a view-point quite different from that of most social reformers and students or teachers of economics. Dr. Bryce recognizes only too well the growing tendency in Canada for people to gradually go to the cities. He not only recognizes the error there is in this, but seeks to avert the stream, not so much by decrying the city as pointing out the advantages of "back to the land." The career of one Joseph Keeler and his life on the very familiar shores of Lake Ontario has woven around it the romance of life in both environments and teaches so clearly the lesson of lasting happiness only to be found away from the busy streets and thronging market places.



## THE SERVICE REVIEWED.

### House of Commons' Discussion of Post Office and Interior.

There have been a couple of discussions in the House of Commons recently that were well worth while. They took place in Committee of Supply, under whose rules the discussion is informal, and can easily be made informing. The Departments of Post Office and Interior were under review. The debates were taken part in by an unusually large number of members, and the discussion took a wide range. Of course, the talk was largely politics, which was quite natural seeing that all who took part in it were eminent politicians, but many points of interest to those who take an interest in the public service were brought out.

On Thursday, March 22, the Post Office was under review. The Postmaster General, Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, set out to make a statement of the affairs under his control. One entering the House after the debate had begun would hardly know that this was the idea, for the interruptions took up a good deal more time than did the main address. The Postmaster General and his hecklers seemed to understand one another, however, and the debate was kept along a general line, though fifty times it seemed to be in peril of becoming a mere wrangle about trifles. When Mr. Casgrain, with great skill and great patience, had at last succeeded in placing before the committee the facts and arguments of his case, the discussion took more the form of a debate and the case on the other side managed to get itself presented.

The subject nominally before the Chair was a vote of \$7,943,152.25 for the salaries and allowances of the Outside Service of the Post Office, but it was evidently used as an old-fashioned preacher used his text—as a point to start from. Mr. Casgrain's

work was to hold the committee as closely to the subject as he could.

Former criticisms of increasing expenditure were evidently kept in mind, for the Postmaster General's main point was that his administration had been not extravagant but economical. He contended that the increase in expenditure was not more than normal, taking the average increase of former years as a guide, but that had there been an unusual increase it would have been justified by the unusual work performed by the Department. The rapid extension of free rural mail delivery; the parcel post system; the necessary increases of salaries to employees and of allowances to railways; the work made necessary by the war; and the special developments in many cities as well as in distant parts of the country, all made for unavoidable increase of expenditure. He figured that the increases of salaries made in 1912, 1913 and 1914 amounted to \$600,000 a year. Mr. Casgrain stated that there are now 3,337 rural mail routes, and he expressed the confident opinion that Canada's system of rural mail delivery is more efficient than that of the United States, whose example we follow in establishing the system.

The discussion covered a multitude of local and petty details mainly of a political character. But the effect of the debate as a whole was to show a great postal system covering half a continent and performing its work efficiently everywhere. Whether in the financial centre of the great metropolis in Montreal, or in the frozen plains where the dog-sled is the only means of winter transport, in the midst of the carnage and turmoil of armed conflict, the work of the postman goes on steadily and without delay or error. And when the expense of this wonderful system is contrasted with the money that is wasted on works undertaken for merely political ends, the wonder is



that such an immense service can be performed for so little money. For, even if the critics and the hecklers were admitted to be right to the last dollar of their fault-finding, that portion of the expenditure thus left without justification would be seen to be far more than counterbalanced by the willing and devoted service of those who are not fairly remunerated for the splendid work they do.

On the following day, March 23, there was a somewhat similar debate on the affairs of the Department of the Interior. This is far the greatest Department of the Canadian public service. It has branches which are greater in the number of employees and the amount of work put through than are some separate Departments. The public domain is under its control, and the business of bringing in immigrants to till and develop that domain is one of its many services.

The debate on the 23rd instant was the resumption of a previous discussion. As in the other case, the point was the alleged extravagance of the administration. Each speaker had his own particular work to do in the political attack or defence; but the general result was to bring out the fact that Canada's public domain is being well looked after and that its development goes on in spite of the demands of war upon the manhood of the nation and upon the public exchequer. It opened, as it were, an outlook upon that immense unopened area which is about to come under the plow, the axe and the drill, and the lands, timbers and minerals of which will have to be cared for and their exploitation regulated by the men and women of the Civil Service of Canada. Hon. W. J. Roche, Minister of the Interior, strongly justified the maintenance of the Service under his charge and defended his policy in keeping the organization together and at high efficiency, notwithstanding that war has temporarily checked immigration and all the

activity that followed rapid settlement upon the land. And throughout the debate not a word of criticism was offered of the work as performed by those engaged in the public service. The politicians may be dissatisfied with one another, but they all seem to take it for granted that those who gain their livelihood by working for the public will do their duty. The debate was in this respect a compliment to the Canadian Civil Service.

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### THE POSTMAN.

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From the Postal Record, official organ of the National Association of Letter Carriers:

#### THE LETTER CARRIER.

Whom do you think the mightiest man—

The Czar, perhaps, or King?  
Just look around the earth a bit,  
You'll find it's no such thing.  
The man to whom the whole world looks

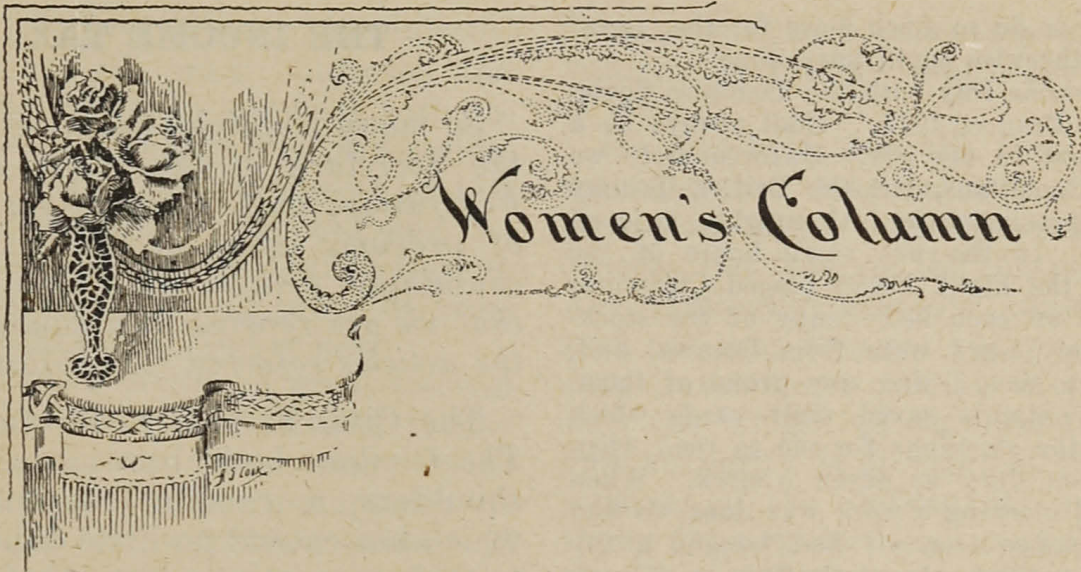
In city, town or vale,  
The man who holds our destinies  
Is the man who brings the mail.

A sceptre is an awesome thing;  
Few crowns are worth their weight,  
And jewelled decorations  
Are largely ours by fate.  
No matter what the uniform,  
Gorgeous, grave or gay,  
There's no uniform so watched for  
As the postman's suit of grey.

For a while our lover's footsteps  
Are music to our ears;  
Then a day comes when we greet him  
And no heartbeat interferes.  
But as long as life's great story  
Will be written, without fail  
There will always be a heartbeat  
For the man who brings the mail.

MAUD B. COLWELL.  
Port Chester, N. Y.





The Advisory Board of the W.B., C.S.A. met in the Hall of the Y.M. C.A., on Thursday, the 2nd March.

The Treasurer showed a balance of \$93.29, to the credit of the Emergency and Red Cross Fund, but the money Collected in the several Departments for February had not yet been handled in. The sum of \$20.00 was set aside towards the payment of the salary of the Canadian Civil Service Red Cross Nurse at the front; also the sum of \$15.00 towards Local Relief work, leaving a balance of \$58.29, out of which the sum of \$20. was voted to each of the following funds, namely, Prisoners of War, and the French Peasants Fund.

\* \* \*

The monthly meeting of the W.B., of the Association was held at St. John's Hall on the 15th March. The Dramatic Club favoured us with a one act play named "The Burglar"; those taking part were the Misses Mabel Cummings, Gladys Seeber, Mildred Ashfield, A. E. Boran and Hazel McKay. One and all did great credit to Miss ———, who kindly instructed them, as the play called for spontaneous and continuous action, which if not sustained throughout, would have resulted in most noticeable failure. The stage setting was a marvelous transformation from a plain platform surrounded by bare walls to a most artistic and cosy room in a summer cottage.

\* \* \*

Recently a report has been issued and distributed throughout the several branches of all the departments, illustrating where there is co-operation, each one doing their 'little bit', so little that it is not felt by the individual, the amount of assistance that can be rendered to worthy and urgent causes. This report explains the origin of the Red Cross and Emergency Fund, of which the Advisory Board Members of the W.B., C.S.A. have charge; it also shows the amount of money collected and the disbursements made during 1914-15, and since the 1st of October, 1915, when the new Executive of the Association came in, to the 31st of January, 1916. If you have not seen a copy, a request made to Miss E. Rogers, Department of Agriculture, will ensure the receipt of one.

\* \* \*

The following letter received from Miss Annie H. M. McNicol sounds a high note of courage, cheerfulness and devotion.

No. 2 Canadian General Hospital,  
France, Jan. 15, 1916.

Miss Snelling,  
Treasurer, W.B.C.S.A.,  
Ottawa.

Dear Miss Snelling,—

Kindly convey to the members of the Women's Branch of the Civil Service Association my very sincere thanks for their most acceptable gift. Coming as it did at this festive season of the year, it en-



abled me to do so much more for the 'boys' than I otherwise could have done.

"Christmas Day with the Tommies Somewhere in France, 1915," shall always be a great event in my life. Unfortunately we had no Canadians, but the British Tommy is so appreciative and thoroughly enjoyed the day. In the wee small hours of the morning the night sisters placed Christmas stockings on each bed—many of the stockings in my ward were from Ottawa, and, needless to say, I was very proud of them. All the patients saved their cards which came in the stockings for me to read when I came on duty at seven o'clock. When the usual morning's work was done we had our Christmas tree. I had bought a toy for each patient, placed the tree in a large box of sawdust, and each patient had to find his name on the tree and then hunt for his gift. They all seemed to enjoy the fun and were like children. The dinner was most appetizing—turkey, plum pudding, etc. In the afternoon, from 4 to 6, our unit entertained all the patients at a concert in the Y.M.C.A. hut. The concert was a great success and the patients enjoyed every moment of it. Wish you could have heard our boys of the unit when the concert party sang "O Canada"; it made us all lonely for a few minutes, but we were happy to have so many patients, and thankful to be in a position to do some little thing for these boys who are doing so much for us. No one can quite realize just what it means to be over here in the midst of it all, just doing our little bit, but if it were not for our dear people at home helping us so much in every way we would not have the same encouragement to continue. The British Tommy simply adores anything from Canada, and when we have our Canadian boys we have to be very diplomatic as the British Tommy is very jealous, but we are so proud of our own brave boys who have taken such a wonderful part in this terrible war.

Again thanking you and the other members of the Association for their Christmas gift, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

ANNIE H. McNICOL.

It is certain that either wise bearing or ignorant carriage is caught as men take diseases, one of another; therefore let men take heed of their company.—*Shakespeare*.

The world hates a quitter, whether he be at the bench, in the pulpit or on the mat.

## THE INCOME TAX.

*So many enquiries have come in to the Secretary of the Civil Service Federation, with requests for copies of previous issues of The Civilian containing articles on this question that we are reprinting a summary of the articles referred to.—Editors.*

The Civil Service Federation and *The Civilian* both have upon their shoulders a certain responsibility which has caused no little annoyance to their respective constituents. The most recent developments in the matter have happened in Toronto where Judge Morson, an officer of the Federal Government, has put his back against the wall and is defying Hercules to move him. The secretary of the Federation applied to the officers of the Toronto association for a statement of the facts, and this has now been received and is published hereunder.

The legal battle which has been waged by Judge Morson and the City of Toronto for about three years, over the question of the right of the municipal authorities of Toronto to impose an income tax on the salaries of Canadian Government officials residing in that city, is now about to be carried into the Appeal Courts and thence to the Privy Council for final decision. The matter was up again for hearing before Judge McGillivray of Whitby on Saturday, June 26th, 1915, by way of a motion made on behalf of Judge Morson by his counsel, Mr. R. A. Reid, to set aside a default judgment obtained by the Toronto authorities against the judge.

The income taxes over which this present disputes arises amount to \$126.98. After hearing argument by counsel for the City of Toronto and for Judge Morson, Judge McGillivray upheld the contention of Mr. Reid, namely, that the city had not taken the proper legal steps to secure the judgment and that as the matter involved a question of constitutional law



of very great importance to municipal authorities all over Ontario, and would no doubt be watched with interest by all municipalities in Canada, he ordered that the judgment against Judge Morson be vacated and set aside, and the case proceed to trial in the usual way. It will probably come on for trial in September next.

As this is a matter of great interest to the Civil Service of Canada, it may be stated that in the previous action brought by Judge Morson against the City of Toronto to recover taxes paid by the judge under protest on his income which is received by him from the Dominion Government, he obtained a judgment for \$79.60, being the amount of the said taxes, and an execution against the city was placed in the hands of the bailiff for service, but the judge was promptly paid the amount of his judgment before it became necessary for the bailiff to make a seizure of the goods and chattels of the City of Toronto in order to satisfy the judgment. This latter case was heard before Judge McGibbon of Brampton, and the judgment rendered by him is of considerable importance to all Dominion Government officials in Ontario, and will likely be followed all over Canada. Lengthy written arguments on all aspects of the question were submitted by Mr. R. A. Reid, counsel for Judge Morson, and by William Johnston and B. W. Essery, counsel for the City of Toronto.

Judge McGibbon held that no authority can be found in the British North America Act authorizing the imposition of an income tax on Dominion Government officials by or through municipalities under the authority of provincial legislation, and that under a Federal system of government such as obtains in Canada, one Government cannot tax another, nor tax the means and instrumentalities used by each, such as officials and employees engaged on maintaining and carrying on its powers and authority and the various departments of

government, and executing and administering the law and other affairs of state.

He also held that the Ontario Assessment Act does not authorize the imposition of any such tax on Federal officers, but that, on the contrary, the Act impliedly exempts them from such tax, and does not apply to Canadian Government officials at all. He said the weight of judicial decision and authority is all against the contentions of the defendant, and the Privy Council decision relied upon by the City of Toronto is not applicable to the Canadian constitution.

Mr. Reid intimated at the hearing before Judge McGillivray on June 26th last, that he intended to apply to the Department of Justice at Ottawa for a reference in the form of a series of constitutional questions as to the respective powers of the Dominion and Provincial Governments in Canada regarding the imposition of income taxes on the salaries of Government officials, to be prepared and submitted to the Supreme Court of Canada for answers thereto, and, if necessary, appealed to the Privy Council in England, in order to have the matters in dispute passed upon by these tribunals, as was done in the Companies case a short time ago. This would save all parties considerable expense, and at the same time, settle the question for all municipalities in Canada.

It has also been suggested that the Ontario Legislature should amend the Assessment Act and remove the doubt now existing as to this question by declaring all Dominion Government officials exempt from income taxes. This would be a speedy and decisive way of ending the dispute. In any event we think Judge Morson will succeed.

All civil servants are interested in the question of provincial taxation of Federal Government salaries. Many civil servants are now being mulcted, unjustly they believe, by certain municipalities, and all the others may at any time be similarly afflicted. Ot-



tawa members of the Service are escaping the persecution just now only by virtue of an arrangement with the city, which terminates in a few years. It is well therefore that the progress of the litigation going forward in Toronto be noted from time to time.

Mr. Robert Holmes, vice-president of the Civil Service Federation, applied to Judge Morson for a statement regarding the action between himself and the city of Toronto, Mr. Robert A. Reid undertook to reply and the Secretary of the Federation has received from Mr. Reid the following memorandum:

His Honour Judge Morson handed me a letter a few days ago from Mr. Robert Holmes regarding the Income Tax question, in which letter Mr. Holmes requested an interview with the judge as to his intention to carry the case to the Privy Council. The judge has asked me to reply to this letter, and I might say for your information that, up to the present time, the city is the party to the action who up to the present stage has been placed in the position of having to carry the case to the Privy Council. If, when the hearing comes on before the Appeal Courts here, the city should lose, it will still be in the position of having to carry the matter to the Privy Council. If the case should turn the other way, then the judge will be the party who will have the carriage of the proceedings across the water.

A few days ago I received a notice of trial from the city setting the case down for hearing on December 22, 1915, next. I do not know the reason for this long delay, but to-day I was served with a notice of motion by the city which comes up for hearing on October 22nd next, under the terms of which the city proposes to move for judgment in its favour on the ground that we have no defence to the action.

I do not understand all these notices of motion and other notices which the city is in the habit of serving on us, but one thing I do know is the notice is always on the defensive. I think we can handle these recent notices with as much success as we have handled others which were disposed of in our favour on every occasion.

We should manage our fortune as we do our health—enjoy it when good, be patient when it is bad, and never apply violent remedies except in an extreme necessity.—*Roche foucauld.*

## MANITOBA RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.

The Secretary read the financial statement received from the Western Federation, which shows a balance of \$204.03 on hand.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Chrysler, Secretary of the Federation, and placed before the meeting the matter of this Association contributing an extra per capita tax of 25c to the Federation to be used for legal fees, etc., for the benefit of any clerk who may be injured while on duty.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Hunt moved, and Mr. Hammill seconded, "That if a case arises, it should be put on its merits before the various Associations, and if voted in favour of, that a special levy be made on all members for the purpose of procuring legal aid." Carried.

At this time Mr. Scott of the London and Lancashire Insurance Co. addressed the meeting on the subject of accident and health insurance, and explained the several policies and their benefits to all clerks, the opinion prevailing that we should all insure with this company, who were selected at the instigation of our various Associations.

Mr. Scott and Mr. White were thanked for their information.

Mr. Hamill moved, and Mr. Swinford seconded, "That a meeting of the Western Federation be held in the near future, and that the expenses of the delegates be defrayed from the Federation treasury." Carried.

Motion by C. A. Hives, seconded by Mr. Hammill, "That this Association recommend that members who have gone to war be kept in good standing by the Federation and also by their Provincial Association, and that the per capita tax for the Federation be only levied on actual members of the various Associations." Carried.

Motion by D. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Cyr, "That the meeting adjourn." Carried.



### HAS A FAMILIAR SOUND.

A little over a month before the President was inaugurated Mr. Wilson, as Governor of New Jersey, made public his sentiments on public service:

"Public service is not worth anything if an entirely satisfactory fulfillment of the duties of an office does not entitle a man to consideration and re-appointment. I am bound to consider the claim of a man who has made good. I would be ashamed of myself if I did not."

For weeks there has been a controversy over the appointment of the postmaster at New York. Instead of retaining Mr. Morgan as postmaster, the President, according to the newspaper despatches, is prepared to name for the New York office a political soldier of fortune, whose civil service record is an index of his character; a third rate politician who regards public office largely as a base for the distribution of patronage. He does not suggest that the duties of the office have not been satisfactorily fulfilled by Mr. Morgan and he has not publicly acknowledged any sense of shame in failing to consider Mr. Morgan's claim to re-appointment.

We should be loath to believe that the President has wholly abandoned the principles which he enunciated in 1913, but the fact is that, to this point in his administration, he has done no single thing to extend the principle of the merit system, either in the classified or unclassified service. On the contrary the record of the Postmaster General, especially, is one of a pretense of respect for it and in fact of its continued corruption and evasion.

The presumption is that his excuse is "senatorial courtesy." Possibly, the worse the appointment the more it is to be welcomed from our standpoint. Anything that calls popular attention to the inherently vicious

system, which practically allows the Senators from a single state to dictate the appointment to the higher federal offices in that state through the support given to them by their colleagues, who wish to exercise the some prerogative, is to be welcomed.

Would not the country hail with approval a declaration from the White House that the present system of political appointments under the rule of "senatorial courtesy" is an insult to our national intelligence? A message to Congress that the next step in administrative progress must be the classification of presidential postmasters would be in accordance with the principles of a democracy which can be and should be made efficient.



### Royal Naval College of Canada.

THE next examination for the entry of Naval Cadets will be held at the examination centres of the Civil Service Commission in May, 1916, successful candidates joining the College on or about 1st August. Applications for entry will be received up to 15th April by the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Ottawa, from whom blank entry forms can now be obtained.

Candidates for the examination in May next must be between the ages of fourteen and sixteen on the 1st July, 1916.

The scheme of training at the College is based on that in force in the English Naval Colleges at Osborne and Dartmouth, but it is not compulsory for cadets to follow a Naval Career when they have completed the course, which lasts three years. McGill and Toronto Universities allow the College course to count as one year at the Science School. The Admiralty will take a maximum of 8 cadets annually into the Royal Navy, where the pay and prospects would be identical with that of cadets who have passed into the Navy from Osborne and Dartmouth.

Further details can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

G. J. DESBARATS,

Deputy Minister of the Naval Service.  
Department of the Naval Service,  
Ottawa, January 11th, 1916.

Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.—90794.

<b>Montreal SHIRT and OVERALL</b>	
<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>MANUFACTURERS OF</b>
<b>LIMITED</b>	<b>SHIRTS</b>
<b>MONTREAL, P. Q.</b>	<b>OVERALLS</b>
	<b>AND PANTS</b>



**PRAISE FOR DOMINION PARKS.**

(The Outlook, March 1, 1916.)

This state of disorganization in regard to our (United States) national parks has been commented upon by many speakers and writers of authority. The continuance of the present system, or lack of system, results in a definite loss to the people of the United States which cannot be computed in dollars and cents. Such a bureau as has been proposed would not only serve to organize our parks under uniform control, but would act as a means of educating the American people in the use of and enjoyment of their own vast property. How such a campaign of education and information might work can be learned by a study of the park system of our northern neighbour. Canada, through its Department of Parks, (sic) has so successfully exploited its possession that during the season of 1915, when there was such a large volume of travel through the West, Canadian parks attracted in the aggregate more visitors than the parks of the United States.

**ATHLETICS.**

"Nick" Bawlf has had a lot of fun managing the hockey team of the 154th Battalion. Next winter he will be managing teams to go out and clean up German trenches.

The Ottawa basketball team gave Bud Aikens a wrist watch when he left for Kingston to join the 51st Battery. Several other members of Reg. Sims' outfit are already in khaki.

Johnny Broderick, the Cornwall lacrosse star, is a sergeant in the 154th.

In Bermuda the 38th Battalion is playing lacrosse with sticks sent by the Sportsmen's Patriotic Association of Ottawa.

The 207th Battalion has been called "McLean's Athletes." Colonel "Charlie" McLean has been some sport himself. Why should the Civil Service paddlers, oarsmen, baseball, hockey and basketball players not form a special platoon of the Civil Service company?

**REQUESTED POEM, R.**

This life is like a pack of cards,  
We mortals have to learn;  
Each shuffles, cuts and deals the pack,  
And hopes a trump to turn.

Some bring a high card to the top,  
While others bring a low;  
Some hold a hand quite full of trumps,  
While others none can show.

In playing some throw out a trump,  
A winning card to save;  
Some play the king, some play the  
deuce,  
But many play the knave.

When hearts are trumps we play for  
love,  
And pleasure rules the hour;  
No thought of sorrow mars the game,  
In beauties' rosy bower.

When diamonds chance to rule the  
pack,  
The players stake their gold;  
The heavy sums are won and lost,  
By players young and old.

When clubs are trumps look out for  
war,  
On ocean and on land;  
For mighty deeds of blood are done,  
When clubs are held in hand.

The last of all, it is the spade,  
When turned by hand of time;  
It finishes up the players' game,  
In every age and clime.

No matter how each may win,  
No matter how each may save;  
The spade will finish up the game,  
And dig the players' grave.

—Exchange.



## Personals.

### General.

R. Herrod, formerly railway mail clerk, Moose Jaw Division, has been promoted to leading seaman on board H.M. Submarine "C.C.2" at Esquimalt, B.C.

Frank D. Hickman, letter carrier, Vancouver, B.C., is serving on H.M.C.S. "Shearwater."

Major Reginald W. Brock, formerly Deputy Minister of Mines, will be second in command of the Western Universities Battalion, C.E.F.

### Obituary.

L. O. U. Gauvreau, railway mail clerk of Quebec district, died very suddenly while on duty in postal car of the Quebec, Roberval and Chicoutimi R.P.O. The late Mr. Gauvreau, who was nearly sixty-eight years of age, entered the Service in February, 188. He leaves four children, two sons and two daughters.

George Edwin Perley, C.E., for many years connected with the Department of Public Works, died on March 16th. Mr. Perley had been in ill health for a long time, but no fatal result had been anticipated. He leaves a grown-up family.

Victor Dubreuil, fair wage officer of the Department of Labour, died on March 14th. He was seized by illness in Montreal, where he had gone on official business. He had been in the Government Service for fifteen years. Four sons and two daughters survive.

W. H. Noble, of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, passed away on March 24th, aged seventy-two years.

Napoleon Belanger, for more than thirty years on the staff of the Department of Public Works, died on March 24th. He was sixty-nine years of age and a native of Rigaud. He leaves a widow, one daughter and four sons.

Kenneth Ferguson Mackenzie, son of A. F. Mackenzie, of the Department of Indian Affairs, and Mrs. Mackenzie, died at the family home on March 24th, aged seven years.

H. S. Broughton, for many years postmaster of Bradford, Ont., died on March 12th, aged seventy-three years.

Mr. R. H. Field, who died at his residence, 15 Third avenue, was for some years in the employ of the Department of Trade and Commerce, coming here from Brockville. He leaves a family of three sons and wife to mourn his loss.

Mr. Austin Bill, of the Post Office De-

partment, has received word of the death, in action, of his nephew, Lieut. Locke, of the Second Suffolks. Lieut. Locke, who was only twenty-two, met his death in France during a successful attack on the German lines.

Mrs. John Cosgrove, wife of J. Cosgrove, of the Purchasing Branch, Department of Railways and Canals, died recently at her home in Ottawa. Mrs. Cosgrove was the daughter of Captain M. Behan, of the Marine service.

Mrs. Kane, wife of John Kane, of the Department of Public Works, and who had been a resident of Ottawa nearly forty years, died at her residence, 50 Lyon street. She leaves beside her husband a family of one son and seven daughters.

David Harris, late of the Department of Finance, died at his residence, 443 Kent Street, Ottawa; after an illness of four months. Mr. Harris who was only twenty-two years of age, leaves a widow.

## NATURALISTS ELECT OFFICERS

The election of officers for the ensuing year took place at the annual meeting of the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club held recently. They are as follows: President, Mr. H. I. Smith; First Vice-President, Dr. Gordon C. Hewitt; Second Vice-President, E. D. Eddy; Secretary, L. D. Burling; Treasurer, G. Lalichler; Committee, Miss Fyles, Messrs. P. A. Traverter, L. H. Newman, G. Sifton, W. H. McGillivray, F. W. Waugh, C. Sterneberg, Dr. Williams and Dr. Malte.

The majority of these officers are civil servants.

Mr. D. B. Dowling gave an interesting address on "Formation of the Great Plains of North America." It was well illustrated with lantern slides.

The club has a membership of 325 or more and is steadily growing.

It seems to me we can never give up longing and wishing while we are thoroughly alive. There are certain things we feel to be beautiful and good, and we must hunger after them.  
—George Elliot.



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# THE POSTAL JOURNAL

VOL. I.

MARCH 31, 1916

No. 13

*Edited under the auspices of  
The Postal Clerks' Association of the Dominion of Canada.*

## Executive Board of the Postal Clerks' Association.

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## The Association Aims.

1. To obtain for all Post Office clerks one day in each week for a day of rest.
2. To impress upon the Government our desire that eight hours shall constitute a day's work, such eight hours to be completed within twelve hours and to consist of not more than two attendances.
3. That seven hours constitute a day's work between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
4. To obtain time off for all overtime worked or payment in lieu thereof.
5. To secure equal conditions for all Post Office clerks, whether employed in semi-staff or city offices.
6. To abolish, by any and every means in its power, the patronage system, at the

- same time bringing all possible pressure to bear upon the Government in order to obtain the adoption of the merit system throughout the entire Civil Service.
7. To secure, as a reward for merit and long and faithful service, the higher positions in the Postal Service, knowing that such positions can be filled more advantageously from the rank and file of the service than by the appointment of individuals having no knowledge of Postal work.
8. To stimulate and foster organization among Post Office clerks, believing, as we do, that by this method only is it possible to obtain justice at the hands of the Department and equal rights for all.

All correspondence, matter for publication, etc., should be addressed to the Editor,  
A. Venables, Calgary, Alberta.

Editor "Postal Journal."

Dear Sir,—As the time for holding the Convention of the Dominion Postal Clerks Association is only a few months distant, it has occurred to me that perhaps a few words on the question of organization might not be out of place. Possibly I am only a dreamer of dreams, but even the doubting Thomases must admit that dreams very often come true. I have often thought what an excellent thing it would be if an Association representing the Post Office Clerks from the Atlantic to the Pacific could be organized. I must admit that I was not optimistic enough to hope that such a thing would materialize during my life time, but

the possibilities for good that would result from such an Association were so great that I could not dismiss the idea from my mind. It was not until I came in contact with Brother J. W. Green, of Winnipeg, at the last Convention of the Civil Service Federation of Canada, and learned from him how intensely aggressive our fellow workers in the West were, that I became convinced that there was enough enthusiasm in our ranks to warrant making a *real* effort to bring this about.

The initial step has been taken in changing the name to the Dominion Postal Clerks Association, and all that now remains to be done, is for the few remaining Associations



in the East to make formal application for admission.

Let me take the liberty of pointing out just a few reasons why the Eastern Associations should not waste any time in sending in their applications. In the first place, the unamalgamated units in the East cannot hope to accomplish anything acting independently, for the simple reason that any representations they might make to the department would be merely the expression of opinion of a comparatively small body of men, a fact that would not be lost sight of by the department in dealing with those representations. Then, again, local Associations might, and sometimes do, hold different views on the same subject, due to the fact that they have not perhaps given the matter as much careful consideration as its importance merited; or, because they viewed the situation from a purely local standpoint, forgetting for the moment that the Department must (in dealing with most matters) consider the Service as a whole. The result is that the Department would be confronted with two different sets of opinions on the same subject, diametrically opposed to each other. I honestly believe that is why the Department—or at least some of the officials—sometimes conclude that movements which are inaugurated from time to time are conceived and developed by a few disgruntled and dissatisfied agitators, and are therefore consigned to the waste paper basket. We are expending a lot of useless energy and not accomplishing anything.

What a different reception they would receive if when waiting on the Honourable the Postmaster General our representatives were in a position to state that they represented a united Postal Service extending from Coast to Coast, and could explain intelligently what we wanted, and why we wanted it.

If we would stop and consider for a moment what the Inside Service has accomplished by intelligent and energetic organization, I think we would conclude that we have been enacting the role of Rip Van Winkle long enough, and that, if we ever expect to accomplish anything, the sooner we go about it the better. Take for example the Civil Service measure introduced at the last session of Parliament by the Hon. the Minister of Finance. While it does not meet with the entire approval of the Inside Service, it must be conceded that it is an honest effort on the part of the Government to place on the statutes some sort of comprehensive legislation governing the Civil Service. But to what extent does its provisions apply to the Postal Service? Absolutely no changes whatever are made. If you wish to know why this is,

the question is very easily answered. When the Bill was being drafted, the Inside Service, who have an organization worthy of the name, were constantly in touch with the officials who had this work in hand, and made it their business to point out the errors of previous legislation, and to urge, at every favourable opportunity that presented itself, the reforms which are embodied in the proposed measure. While all this was taking place, the poor Outside Service was "fast in the arms of Morpheus," and in their dreams fondly caressing the delusion that it would share the good things for which the Inside Service was working day and night. We are in the same position as the man who was brought to the top of a high precipice, shown the promised land, and then pushed over. But let us forget the past, unless by remembering it we can in the future avoid the mistakes with which it is strewn. Let us take advantage of the unavoidable delay in passing the White Bill, and at the coming Convention so perfect our organization that we will be in a position to elect an Executive thoroughly representative of the entire Postal Service.

President of the Ottawa  
Postal Clerks Association.

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#### NOTES BY THE WAY.

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In this issue we publish some reflections by "Rambler." Whatever you may think of the ideas and suggestions contained therein please remember that our pages, so far as space permits, are open to one and all alike. We shall be glad to receive any opinions on the lines this interested member suggests.

All our readers will readily admit that conditions must verily be worth complaining about from a clerks' point of view, when the citizens of Calgary state that the office is unsanitary for them to work in. It is certainly great to find the people looking after our welfare. In all sincerity, we thank them.

Our last pay cheque reminds us, once again, that we would feel much better about that deduction, if we were permitted to know more about the Guarantee Fund.

Reports from all branches recently show that the association and its committees are feeling the results of recruiting very keenly. If those who are left in the office forget for a minute their duty to those away, in association matters, they will, without doubt, regret it one day, perhaps when it is too late, and they have let their branch back-



slide to such an extent that it is a chaotic condition.

We believe the Editors of *The Civilian* struck the right note in their first issue of March, when they published a number of extracts from 'Hansard.'

A propos of the piece appearing elsewhere with reference to the Calgary post office, some cynics would tell us that all city post offices in this country are resorts for rats. If you fail to get this first time, give it up.

We find Russian papers in Winnipeg stating that the Ruthenian papers circulating in Western Canada are pro-German. Did we dream it or did we hear that there were Ruthenians in some city post offices. We hope their sentiments are very much the other way, if they're around.

With the holiday season here once more, we would like to remind those of our members who happen to be passing through any city in which we have a branch that it is their duty to look in and see their fellow members in other offices than their own.

St. Thomas is the latest office to enquire about amalgamation. The fact that we get sought after quicker by se-staff offices than by city offices only goes to show that they are the more unfairly dealt with of the two classes. Good-luck to you, St. Thomas, come and bring your friends.

Events during the past few months, from our association's point of view, would indicate that branches are much more alive to their responsibilities and to the work in hand at any previous time in the career of our organization. This is as it should be. Let us stay with it, boys; it's uphill work, but we'll get there if we are not too impatient and remain faithful and confident.

All our branches will appreciate the letter from the President of the Ottawa Postal Clerks' Association appearing in this issue. The writer has had 15 years' experience in the post office, which is what very few of our western members can say, so that his words should carry a great deal of weight. When we further consider that he also represents the post office at the Capital and that he is a prominent member of the Civil Service Federation, we may expect his words to command a great deal more attention in the East than any which we can pen.

Don't be forecasting evil unless it is what you can guard against. Anxiety is good for nothing if we can't turn it into a defense.—*Meyrick*.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### Calgary.

The March meeting was again well attended, and after the business end of same was finished about 10 p.m., the Entertainment committee took charge and provided a fine programme of music and songs. Refreshments were again provided by another bunch of our members and were thoroughly enjoyed, as was proved by the men making a clean up of all the good things on the tables. We have endeavoured, time after time, to obtain new talent in the office, but our boys seem, on the whole, not lacking in musical ability maybe, but rather shall we say, of too retiring a disposition to offer their services. Fortunately, after a lot of persuasion, we unearthed two new singers, new that is to the social side of the association. The whole of our entertainment was provided in great style by boys in the post office, the following contributing to the program: Messrs Boothman, Harper, Hallett, Sims, Holden, Goldberg and Speechly. During the evening's entertainment our President, on behalf of the boys, made presentations of wedding presents to Messrs. Braun and French, both of whom made suitable responses for same. F. M. Davies ably officiated as chairman. Advantage was taken of the occasion to give Messrs. Davies and McInnes a send-off on the eve of their departure from the office, for active service. The former is now learning to attend to the sick on the battlefield, and Mac. has at last got his wish, viz., a kiltie battalion. Next time we see him we'll see his knees. The association loses, but only temporarily we sincerely hope, undoubtedly two of its best members with the departure of these men. Fred has been representing the despatch staff on the Executive for two years and Mac. never missed a meeting unless he was on duty.

There has been quite a lot of talk lately in the office about eggs and poultry farming in general, and the Entertainment Committee are endeavouring to get one of the boys, who is the South West Calgary poultry expert, to give a lecture on the subject in the near future. A very pleasant time should be had.

Chief Porter Cheney, heavy on the Chief, is the latest to receive congratulations on the birth of a daughter. Here's to you, Bert. After taking this notice of you, perhaps you'll be good enough to see that some one pays a visit to our den at least once a week hereafter. Thanks.

In the M. O. B. the 1c piece business is now completely overshadowed by the mystery of the half rupee.



**Victoria.**

Word has been received recently of Sergt. Ray McCallum, formerly of this office, who is now serving his country, in the Post Office Department, somewhere in France. He is well, and hopes, shortly, to receive a commission. We all wish him good-luck.

**Edmonton.**

These are stirring days in our office. A military atmosphere is permeating its vicinity. Each coming day sees some of our boys discard the civilian garb for the more business-like khaki. This last week we have bidden adieu to Messrs. Tinsley, Schroeter, Miller and Lyall, all strong members of our branch. There are now some fifty men on active service from the postal clerks and letter carriers in this office.

R. F. Duke has left his sorting case and resumed his homesteading duties. We hope to hear of bumper crops from his quarter later on.

Our worthy Secretary of the P. C. orchestra is being kept busy ducking engagements as there are many calls along his line of art.

We are of the opinion that the formation of a Dominion-wide Postal Clerks' Mutual Aid Society would be a very good item for the Agenda at the next Convention.

**Saskatoon.**

The jolt handed to this office in a recent issue was quite in order. Sort of blessing in disguise. We were fast asleep,—snoring, in fact. However, we will promise to be good in future.

At our last meeting we had, strange to say, a good attendance. There were several lively discussions, during which one member became quite warm. It really begins to look as if the boys are taking an interest in what is going on around them. A remarkable thing about this branch is the fact that those members who do the most kicking about everything and nothing, mostly nothing, are invariably most conspicuous by their absence at meetings.

Everyone is happy over our way just now. Success in the Guide exams. is the reason, and those fellows who passed rude remarks about the man who invested guides in general, and the postal variety in particular, have decided that there are worse things, even, than exams.

**Prince Albert.**

The result of the recent examinations are to hand, and while the showing on the whole is good, yet the result in some cases speaks strongly on the need of Guide classes. Appended is a list of the candidates and their respective marks: Norman, 82; Melton, 77;

Stinson, 75; Teahan, 71; Sinclair, 71; Parks, 56.

The question now is, where did we go down? No one knows, and consequently the errors will continue.

Eric Reid, late a member of our office staff, came back from England recently on three months' sick leave. He left here six months ago with the 65th Battalion. After a period of about three weeks amongst friends he was hurriedly recalled and left for the Dardanelles, 'tis said.

**"REFLECTIONS" BY "RAMBLER."**

In as concise and breezy a manner as possible I will endeavour, in the space the Editor has kindly placed at my disposal, to treat on current topics concerning things postal and at the same time show up a newer way of looking on "old bones of contention" in the Service.

CONCERNING CHECK UPS. "Now for . . ., who got me on that! Oh, yes, I know the bounder, he's got me before on one or two mis-sendings, but I must lay for him; sure as heaven, I'll get him. I can check him 15 times a day." How often do we hear this and worse from our dear friend the despatcher. But there's another way of looking at it. In my opinion, the man who fails to duly report a bonafide mis-sending, because "he never checks me," is not only making a serious breach of regulations, but is misplacing his friendliness to the other fellow. Did it never occur to you that the man who checks you up is contributing, in no little way, to your success in your next case exam. And suppose he checks you on a mis-sending, which was a pure slip, then he's teaching you to be careful. Think this way, "I'll check this man up, he evidently does not know or has forgotten that 'A' changed to B and C, and a check up will put him right." When you get this check up, via your inspector, "regret the error," but not in the usual manner; just take notice for a change, and, in spirit, thank the man who checked you up; don't lay for him because you really mean no harm, it's only the childish part of your nature dying hard. When he comes to visit you, one of those official visits, you will welcome him and give him a good time. So check up in future, when you notice an error, and use no bad blood about it.

I noticed an item in Moose Jaw branch notes recently which appealed to me. It read, "It's a pity more offices are not placed like us, as a lot of good could be



done by visiting." If this had had any relation to women, I would have turned it down flat, but men never do create trouble by visiting, do they, at least only to the police. But, speaking seriously, what is there to bar official visits, even if the distance be 500 miles. I will throw out a suggestion. Suppose Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Saskatoon each contribute one man who could spare three or four days from his annual leave, or more if he wished, wouldn't it be a nice thing to make a party and pay an official visit to the next province, East or West. This suggestion applies to any other part of Canada. Of course, each man would have to pay his own expenses. I'm not suggesting that his office contribute. Think this over and give the Editor your views.

Just before I close, what a good thing if offices were all provided with a room where clerks could meet on things postal and hold Guide classes? Such classes are an absolute necessity if all clerks are going to understand the Guide one way.

#### WHAT EASTERN POSTAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD KNOW.

That sooner or later, there's going to be one Postal Association throughout the Dominion, and that the sooner the better for all.

That there is no comparison between the accomplishments of one organized association and those of a number of isolated societies.

That the Postal Clerks' Association of the Dominion of Canada convenes in order to find out what is most advantageous for all clerks and all offices, not for any one office in particular.

That the above mentioned Association is well on in the right direction and appeals to you to fall in, not behind, but arm in arm.

That, since the West has done and is doing her share, it now depends upon the East as to whether postal clerks are better off in the future than they have been in the past.

That no Eastern organization will ever be able to say that no opportunity occurred for Dominion-wide amalgamation.

That any individual clerk who is interested in us can have all the information he requires for the asking.

That Box 642, Winnipeg, is the place to send inquiries.

That there is no time like the present.  
DO IT NOW.

That Ottawa, Kingston, Fort William,

Sydney and St. Thomas are all either in our Association or expect to be shortly.

That the President of the Ottawa Association is appealing to Eastern offices to amalgamate.

#### FROM OTHER SOURCES.

"Associationists without the Association spirit are of little use, as membership without interest is probably more of a drag than a help. It is of no avail to us to complain of the strength of the Department. Our duty is to meet power with greater power. After all, the stronger side will win. We have the numbers, and we shall have ourselves to blame if we are so shortsighted as not to recognize that, however strong we are numerically, we shall be beaten if we are unable to utilize our forces to the fullest advantage."

—"Postal and Telegraph Record."

"The three year permit on the temporary post office at Calgary ran out on January 1st last, but, owing to the extraordinary war situation, the Government had not proceeded with the new office, and still occupies the old structure, which is rapidly becoming a sort of resort for rats. The structure is denounced by the Board of Trade as not only unsanitary as a working place for the clerks, but also dangerous to patrons in case of fire, owing to the inadequate entrance and exists."

—"Calgary Herald."

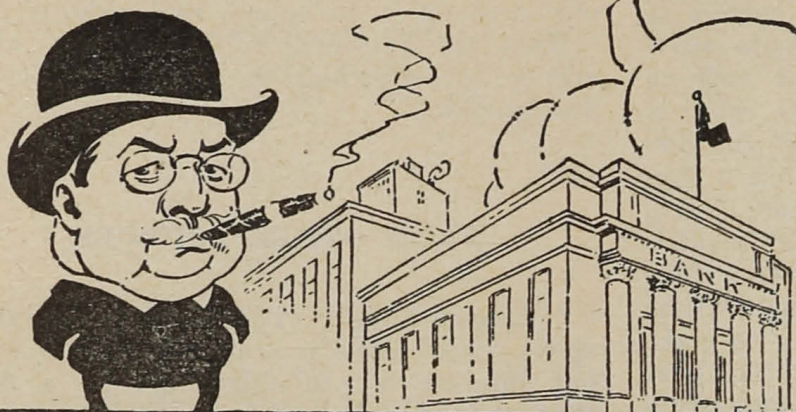
"The only method by which graft can be cured, then, is by the abolition of the patronage system, and this can only be done by both parties agreeing to place the Civil Service without the reach of party politics, to appoint and promote men for suitability and merit alone, and to guarantee safe positions and pensions in return for good and honest work. But, alas! in Western Canada this is but an idle dream at present. It will come true in time to come, and it is up to the people of the provinces, and to no one else, to hasten the abolition of the patronage system, the cure for graft, and the cleansing of Western politics."

—"Topical Topics" in "Fairplay."

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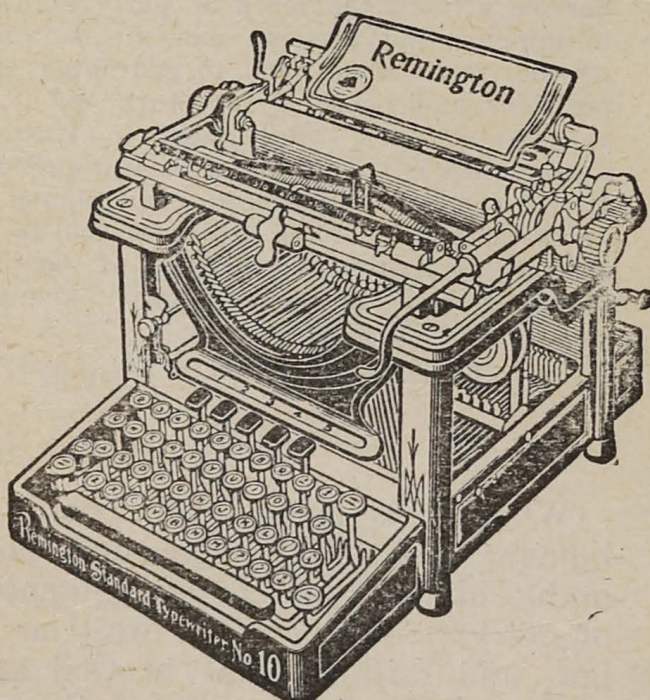
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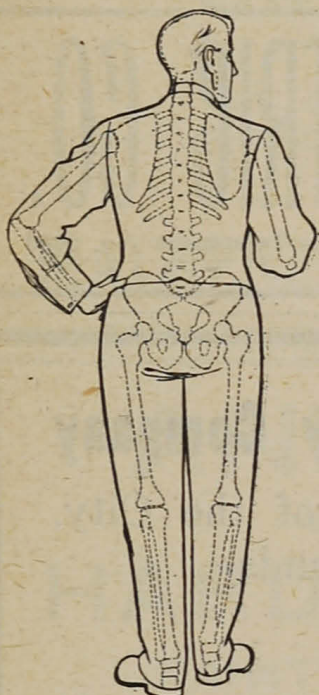
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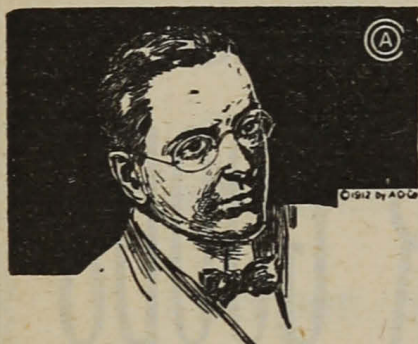
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